

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

TREASURY

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

INFO USSAGE NKP

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COGARD

XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

UNCLAS STATE 231614

COGARD FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: OCTOBER 21 EA PRESS SUMMARY

1. INDOCHINA

MOST PAPERS GIVE PROMINENT COVERAGE TO ANTI-GVN
DEMONSTRATIONS; NYT, WP AND SUN FRONT-PAGE ARTICLES
WITH PHOTOS. WSJ REPORTS DEMONSTRATORS CALLING FOR
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THIEU RESIGNATION SMASHED DOORS OF NATL ASSEMBLY
BUILDING IN SAIGON AND BURNED POLICE JEEP, WHILE
ANTI-THIEU RALLY IN TOWN TO SOUTH DREW 5000. ADDS
THAT GROUP OF NEWSPAPERS DECIDED TO STOP REPORTING

GVN ACTIVITIES TO PROTEST LAW AGAINST PRESS CRITICISM OF GOVT. WP (REUTER) DESCRIBES SAIGON CLASH, QUOTES REPORTS THAT 3000 GATHERED AT PAGODA IN HUE TO HEAR NATL RECONCILIATION FORCES LEADERS CALL FOR APPLICATION OF C-F. NOTES REV. THANH IS TOURING DELTA TOWNS TO PUBLICIZE CORRUPTION CHARGES, AND DREW 5000 AT CANTHO AND 1400 TO TWO OTHER RALLIES WITH NO VIOLENCE REPORTED. QUOTES THANH THAT HE MET WITH HOA HAO LEADERS. STATES AT LEAST EIGHT OF SAIGON'S OVER 20 PAPERS PRINTED CALL TO BOYCOTT GVN PRESS BRIEFINGS TO PROTEST RESTRICTIONS ON FREEDOM OF PRESS.

AP (SUN, CHITRIB, PHINQ, GLOBE) CHARACTERIZES SAIGON

DEMONSTRATION AS "VIOLENCE-PUNCTUATED," SAYS 200 STUDENTS AND CHILDREN JOINED 100 MONKS, NUNS, PRIESTS AND POLITICAL LEADERS IN PROTEST THAT STARTED WITH ANTI-THIEU RALLY AT WHICH MRS. THANH AND OTHERS CALLED FOR END TO FIGHTING AND POLITICAL PRISONER RELEASE. REPORTS FIGHTING BROKE OUT WHEN GROUP SPLIT OFF FROM RALLY, OVERTURNED AND BURNED POLICE JEEP, AND STORMED NATL ASSEMBLY BUILDING WHERE THEY DAMAGED DOORS AND FLOWER POTS. "NUMBER" OF DEMONSTRATORS AND 36 POLICE REPORTEDLY INJURED. AP MENTIONS NON-VIOLENT RALLIES IN HUE, CAN THO AND TWO OTHER TOWNS. REPORTS SVN RADIO CLAIMED THAT IN SAIGON GROUP OF BUDDHIST NUNS AND "WOMAN ACTIVIST" ENCOURAGED DEMONSTRATORS TO STONE POLICE AND CAUSE OTHER VIOLENCE. OPINES THAT POLICE WERE RESTRAINED IN DEALING WITH CROWD (SUN ONLY). MARKHAM (NYT) SEES SAIGON DEMONSTRATION AS CAPPING DAY MARKING NEW SURGE IN ATTACKS ON GVN. REPORTS YOUTHS PUSHED THROUGH POLICE LINES AND STORMED NATL ASSEMBLY BUILDING AFTER ONE REPORTEDLY BEATEN BY PLAINCLOTHESMEN. NOTES PHOTOS OF THIEU MARRED BY BLACK X "PROVOCATIVELY BRANDISHED" BY DEMONSTRATORS. COMMENTS THAT SUNDAYS HAVE BECOME UNCLASSIFIED

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DEMONSTRATION DAYS IN SVN SINCE ANTI-GOVT OPPOSITION BEGAN PICKING UP ABOUT TWO MONTHS AGO. MENTIONS THAT PRO-BAO DAI GROUP INVOLVED IN SAIGON DEMONSTRATION. BELIEVES POLICE ACTION IN CLOSING OFF ALLEYWAYS TO KEEP OTHERS FROM JOINING DEMONSTRATION INTENSIFIED PUBLIC INTEREST AND DREW CROWDS OF WATCHERS WHILE "TEEN-AGERS AND STREET URCHINS" JOINED MARCH OF 30 BUDDHISTS TO DEMONSTRATION SITE TO HEAR SPEECHES THAT POLICE LOUDSPEAKER TRIED TO DROWN OUT. DEMONSTRATORS CHASED LOUDSPEAKER TRUCKS AWAY, STONE-THROWING STARTED, BAND OF YOUNGSTERS PRODUCED UNCONSCIOUS STUDENT WHO WAS ALLEGEDLY BEATEN, AND GROUP HEADED FOR NATL ASSEMBLY BUILDING. LATER MONK APOLOGIZED

TO POLICE BUT BLAMED THEM FOR STARTING VIOLENCE.

2. JAPAN

SUN CARRIES REUTER REPORT FROM TOKYO OF STATEMENT BY JSP LOWER HOUSE MEMBER OKADA ON CONVERSATION ABOUT NUCLEAR WEAPONS HE CLAIMED TO HAVE HAD WITH UNIDENTIFIED MIDWAY CREWMAN OCTOBER 16. CREWMAN ALLEGEDLY SAID ENTIRE CREW KNOWS ABOUT PRESENCE OF NUCLEAR BOMBS (CALLED "NOOKIES") LOADED ON BOARD BEFORE MIDWAY DEPARTED ALAMEDA IN SEPTEMBER, 1973. CREWMAN ALSO ALLEGED TO HAVE SAID NO NUKES HAVE BEEN LOADED, OR OFF-LOADED

SINCE.

JOC REPORTS RECENT DIET REPLY BY NAKASONE THAT GOJ HAS INFORMALLY SOUNDED OUT PRC ON POSSIBILITY OF AGREEMENT FOR CHINA TO PROVIDE JAPAN STABLE SUPPLY OF OIL. NAKASONE SAID CHINESE OIL PRODUCTION INCREASING REMARKABLY FAST. JAPAN HAS IMPORTED ONE MILLION TONS OF CHINESE CRUDE ON COMMERCIAL BASIS, AND JAPANESE FIRMS HAVE CONTRACTED TO IMPORT FOUR MILLION TONS THIS YEAR.

WP AND NYDN HAVE UPI WIREPHOTO OF CROWN PRINCESS MICHIKO CELEBRATING FORTIETH BIRTHDAY WITH DAUGHTER, PRINCESS NORI.

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3. KOREA

FIVE HUNDRED CHANTING RC PRIESTS, NUNS AND LAYMEN, LED BY US BISHOP, DEMONSTRATED SUNDAY AT INCHON AFTER ATTENDING MASS IN PLAZA OUTSIDE INCHON CATHEDRAL. POLICE WITH TEAR GAS TRIED TO BREAK UP PROTEST (AP PHINQ, NYDN, SUN; WP, CHITRIB).

GM OVERSEAS OPERATIONS RECEIVED ORDER FOR 50 3,000-HP MACHINE LOCOMOTIVES AND 52 EXTRA SETS OF VARIOUS LOCOMOTIVE COMPONENTS FROM SK NATIONAL RR (JOC).

4. CHINA

NCNA REPORTS MAO HAS MET WITH DANISH PM HARTLING FOR AN HOUR IN "FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE" OF UNDISCLOSED LOCATION. ASKED ABOUT RECENT REPORTS THAT MAO HAD SUFFERED SEVERE STROKE, HARTLING REPORTEDLY SAID CHAIRMAN WAS BRIGHT, CLEAR, WELL-INFORMED AND SHOWED SENSE OF HUMOR (GLOBE, WP).

HK FIRST NATIONAL CITY BANK SAYS PRC'S OIL EXPORT EARNINGS

ARE "LIKELY TO RISE DRAMATICALLY" IN NEXT FEW YEARS, CSM'S SOUTHERLAND WRITES. BANK REPORTED SAYING PRC OIL RESERVES ARE "LARGE, POSSIBLY IMMENSE." ADDED THAT, WITHOUT OFFICIAL FANFARE, PRC APPEARS TO HAVE INITIATED "SIGNIFICANT CHANGE" IN ITS INTERNATIONAL TRADE STRATEGY, DECIDING TO RUN ANNUAL TRADE DEFICIT, TO BE FINANCED BY FOREIGN CREDIT; REPORTS PRC APPARENTLY PLANS PAYING OFF CONSIDERABLE PART OF THIS CREDIT IN YEARS AHEAD BY

GREATLY INCREASING ISOIL EXPORTS. BANK SAID THAT IN THREE YEARS, CHINA'S OIL OUTPUT ROSE AT RAPID ANNUAL RATE OF ABOUT 25 PERCENT TO 50 MILLION TONS IN 1973. BY 1977, OUTPUT COULD REACH 120 MILLION TONS, AND CHINA COULD THEN EASILY SPARE 20 MILLION TONS FOR EXPORT, EVEN IF ITS DOMESTIC OIL CONSUMPTION HAD DOUBLED.

5. AUSTRALIA

AUSTRALIAN STEEL AND MINING CORP (JOINT COMPANY FORMED UNCLASSIFIED

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BY ARMCO AND KAISER) CANCELS PLANS TO DEVELOP MINING-STEELMAKING COMPLEX IN AUSTRALIA (JOC, WSJ). PROJECT UNDER STUDY SINCE 1968 WOULD HAVE USED NATURAL GAS FOR DIRECT CONVERSION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIAN IRON ORE FOR EXPORT FROM JERVIS BAY, NSW. AUSTRALIAN STEEL CHAIRMAN VERITY SAYS 22 VIABLE PROJECTS WERE IDENTIFIED IN FIVE-YEAR STUDY, BUT EFFORTS TO FIND AUSSIE PARTNER WERE UNSUCCESSFUL. VERITY ALSO SAID OTHER FACTORS INFLUENCING DECISION WERE DISPARITY BETWEEN US AND AUSTRALIAN CURRENCIES, TAX LEGISLATION, RESERVE BANK VARIABLE DEPOSIT REQUIREMENTS ON FOREIGN LOAN FUNDS AND UNCERTAINTY OF PERMITS. WSJ CHARACTERIZED VERITY STATEMENT AS DIRECT CRITICISM OF LABOR PARTY GOVERNMENT, AND QUOTED OPPOSITION COUNTRY PARTY LEADER ANTHONY'S STATEMENT THAT DECISION WAS INDICTMENT OF GOVT, AND REPRESENTED GREAT LOSS TO AUSTRALIA.

6. PHILIPPINES

WP CARRIES AFP REPORT THAT MARCOS HAS APPROVED DECISION TO PERMIT AMERICAN FIRM (AMOCO) TO EXPLORE FOR OIL IN PHILIPPINES. GOP SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED DECISION SEEKS TO WIDEN PARTICIPATION BY FOREIGN CAPITAL AND EXPERTISE IN EXPLORATION EFFORT IN PHILIPPINES.

AFP (WP) REPORTS PHILIPPINES RICE CROP SUFFERED 18 MILLION DOLS DAMAGE FROM TWO TYPHOONS LAST WEEK.

7. US-USSR SUMMIT MEETING

NYT QUOTES ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS THAT HAK IS EXPECTED

FIRM UP PLANS FOR LATE NOVEMBER MEETING BETWEEN FORD AND BREZHNEV. SECRETARY EXPECTED TO ANNOUNCE DURING VISIT TO MOSCOW THIS WEEK THAT MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE IN VLADIVOSTOK, NOVEMBER 23 AND 24, FOLLOWING PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO JAPAN (NOVEMBER 18-22) AND ROK (NOVEMBER 22-23). NEITHER WH NOR STATE DEPARTMENT WOULD CONFIRM SPECULATION ABOUT EARLY FORD-BREZHNEV MEETING. SPECULATION ORIGINATED FROM SOVIET SOURCES IN JAPAN. IN OCTOBER 9 PRESS CONFERENCE

PRES SAID HE WOULD CONSIDER SUCH MEETING IF THERE GOOD
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REASON FOR IT.

8. DIEGO GARCIA

BASED ON SOUTH AFRICAN DEFENSE DEPT SOURCES, WP'S YOUNGHUSBAND (IN CAPE TOWN) REPORTS VICTORY IN SEVEN-YEAR BATTLE TO GAIN COOPERATION OF US, UK AND FRANCE IN PROTECTING VITAL SEA LANE AROUND CAPE OF GOOD HOPE. YOUNGBLOOD CITES JOHANNESBURG SUNDAY TIMES REPORT FROM WASHINGTON (OCTOBER 20) THAT DOD STRATEGISTS CONCERNED WITH GROWING SOVIET NAVAL PRESENCE IN INDIAN OCEAN. RETIRED ADMIRAL MCCAIN (FORMERLY CINCPAC) QUOTED AS STRESSING IMPORTANCE OF DEVELOPING USN BASE AT DIEGO GARCIA, AND ABSOLUTE NEED FOR USN ACCESS TOSA FACILITIES AT SIMONSTOWN AND DURBAN.

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

9. CHINA

NYT'S LELYVELD IN HK WRITES "NOTES ON CHINA." REPORTS ANALYSTS AS BELIEVING LONDON DAILY TELEGRAPH ACCOUNT ABOUT INTENSIFIED SUCCESSION STRUGGLE IN PEKING FOLLOWING SEVERE STROKE SUPPOSEDLY SUFFERED BY MAO AT SEPTEMBER'S END WAS DELIBERATELY LEAKED BY CHINESE AS GAMBIT BY FACTION HOSTILE TO CHIANG CHING. LELYVELD SAYS WHAT GIVES DAILY TELEGRAPH ARTICLE ITS SPECIAL INTEREST IS ALARMING PICTURE ITS SOURCES TRIED TO DRAW OF CHIANG CHING'S ALLEGED INTRIGUES AND PLANS. SAYS DAILY TELEGRAPH'S SOURCES HOLD OUT MOST DIRE PROSPECTS FOR WORLD IF CHIANG CHING SUCCEEDS IN DETERMINING SUCCESSION: REJECTION OF CAUTIOUS OPENING TO WEST CHOU MADE WITH MAO'S BACKING, SHRINKING FOREIGN TRADE AND CONTACTS WITH FOREIGNERS, ACTIVE SUPPORT FOR REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENTS AROUND WORLD, AND GENERAL CHAOS IN CHINA THAT COULD ENABLE USSR TO REASSERT ITS INFLUENCE THERE. DAILY TELEGRAPH ARTICLE ALSO SAYS CHIANG CHING NOW PLANNING TO REVIVE WANING ANTI-CONFUCIUS CAMPAIGN EARLY NEXT YEAR AND GIVE IT PRONOUNCED XENOPHOBIC EMPHASIS. LELYVELD ASSERTS ANALYSTS TAKE NONE OF THESE ALARMS AT FACE VALUE, BUT THEY WONDER

WHICH CHINESE ARE SOUNDING THEM AND WHOM THEY ARE TRYING
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TO SCARE. TENTATIVE GUESS IS THAT OFFICIALS CLOSE TO CHOU COULD FIND POLITICAL AMMUNITION IN ANY EVIDENCE ABROAD OF ANXIETY OVER CHIANG CHING'S ASCENDENCY. CONCLUDES THAT IF THEY, OR OTHERS, HAVE ACTUALLY RESORTED TO FOREIGN PRESS LEAKS, IT WOULD APPEAR TENSION IN PEKING IS VERY HIGH, AND THAT CHIANG CHING IS SUFFICIENTLY POWERFUL TO MAKE HER OPPONENTS A LITTLE DESPERATE.

IN SECOND NOTE, CITES RECENT VISITOR TO PEKING AS HAVING BEEN TOLD BY CHINESE OFFICIALS THAT NIXON WROTE LETTER TO CHOU AT TIME OF HIS RESIGNATION REPORTEDLY EXPRESSING REGRET THAT HE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO TAKE PART IN CONTINUED IMPROVEMENT IN SINO-US RELATIONS. CHOU SAID TO HAVE SENT PROMPT AND SYMPATHETIC REPLY, ASSURING NIXON HE WAS STILL ESTEEMED IN PEKING FOR HAVING UNFROZEN RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. IN CONVERSATIONS WITH FOREIGNERS, PRC OFFICIALS LEFT LITTLE DOUBT THEY WERE UNIMPRESSED BY WATERGATE AND NOW GENUINELY REGRET NIXON'S DEPARTURE.

IN THIRD NOTE, LELYVELD MENTIONS CURRENT ISSUE OF RED FLAG CARRYING LONG, ELLIPTICAL HOMILY INTENDED TO REASSURE PARTY MEMBERS WHO HAVE BEEN BAFFLED BY UNCERTAIN AND CONTRADICTORY POLITICAL SIGNALS EMANATING FROM PEKING IN RECENT MONTHS. ARTICLE DOES NOT EXPLICITLY ACKNOWLEDGE IDEOLOGICAL CAMPAIGN THAT DOMINATED CHINESE POLITICAL LIFE IN FIRST HALF OF YEAR HAS BEEN STYMIED OR CALLED OFF, BUT ARGUES ENERGETICALLY THAT ANY SETBACK TO REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT CAN ONLY BE TEMPORARY. LELYVELD VIEWS ARTICLE AS EXHORTATION FOR SOME FORCE OR GROUP TO BE PATIENT BECAUSE TIME IS ON ITS SIDE, BUT NOTES FORCE OR GROUP IS LEFT UNIDENTIFIED. LELYVELD SEES NERVOUSNESS PRESUMED TO LURK IN PEKING JUST BENEATH SURFACE REFLECTED IN STORY DIPLOMATS THERE HAVE BEEN REPEATING MORE OR LESS SERIOUSLY FOR SOME MONTHS: THAT WHEN CONSTRUCTION GOT UNDER WAY ON NEW WING OF PEKING HOTEL, WORD WAS THAT STRUCTURE WOULD BE COMPLETED BY OCT 1, 1974, IN TIME FOR 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF CCP RULE. AS SYMBOL OF CHINESE PROGRESS IN THAT PERIOD, IT WAS SUPPOSED TO RISE TO 25 STORIES - ONE FOR EACH YEAR. BUILDING WAS COMPLETED IN TIME BUT TOPPED OFF AT 17 FLOORS, BECAUSE CHINESE SECURITY OFFICIALS REPORTEDLY DECIDED AFTER VIEWING FILM, UNCLASSIFIED

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"THE DAY OF THE JACKAL," THAT 25 STORIES WOULD BE TOO MANY. MOVIE, WHICH INVOLVES ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON DE GAULLE BY SNIPER, WAS IMPORTED AT PRC REQUEST BY USLO. LELYVELD SAYS ONLY ELEMENTS IN STORY THAT CAN BE CONFIRMED ARE FACT

USLO DID BRING FILM TO PEKING AND FACT WING STANDS AT 17 FLOORS, STILL TALLEST STRUCTURE IN CAPITAL.

10. PHILIPPINES

WP'S GREENWAY IN MANILA NOTES THAT EVER SINCE MARTIAL LAW DECLARED IN SEPT 1972, CHURCH HAS VOICED ITS CONCERN OVER CURTAILMENT OF BASIC FREEDOMS. OBSERVES CHURCH-STATE SPLIT WIDENED WHEN RC UNITS RAIDED SACRED HEART NOVITIATE IN NOVALICHES DURING LAST WEEK OF AUGUST. LIBERAL AND CONSERVATIVE RCS BECAME UNITED BECAUSE OF HEAVY-HANDED RAID ON CHURCH PROPERTY BY POLICE, WHO

SAID THEY WERE LOOKING FOR CP LEADER. HOWEVER, DOUBLY INFURIATING TO CHURCH WERE REPORTS IN GOVT-CONTROLLED PRESS THAT CHURCH HAD FULLY COOPERATED IN RAID. ON AUG 29, ARCHBISHOP SIN OF MANILA CALLED VIGIL OF PRAYER TO PROTEST CONTINUING INJUSTICES, DENOUNCED GOVT FROM PULPIT FOR GIVING IMPRESSION CHURCH APPROVED NOVALICHES RAID. CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF PHILS SENT PERSONAL LETTER - DRAFTED IN JULY - TO MARCOS ASSURING HIM BISHOPS SUPPORTED GOALS AND AIMS OF NEW SOCIETY, BUT CRITICIZED MARTIAL LAW METHODS. HOWEVER, BISHOPS' CONFERENCE, ON INSISTENCE OF CONSERVATIVE BISHOPS, VOTED TO KEEP LETTER STRICTLY PRIVATE. COPIES OF DRAFT WERE LEAKED, BUT ALTHOUGH TEXT OF BISHOPS' LETTER HAS BEEN PUBLISHED ABROAD, IT HAS NEVER BEEN PUBLISHED IN PHILS.

11. GENERAL

SUN'S TREWHITT DISCUSSES US SECURITY COMMITMENTS IN LIGHT OF DETENTE POLICY, MENTIONING THAILAND, SK AND PHILS. VIEWS COMMITMENTS AS ESSENTIALLY POLITICAL DOCUMENTS, SUBJECT TO CONSTANTLY CHANGING REALITIES OF THE MOMENT APART FROM THEIR PRECISE LANGUAGE. INGERSOLL

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